



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## 04/18/2012 Minutes

Minutes for the ABAC meeting of April 18, 2012

Board members present were Christopher Tonkin, Stephan Miller, Scott Smith, Doug Greenfield, Jack Johnson and Ron Sender. Joey Glushko, Howard Sagrans, Todd Spivak, Pete Howard, Ted Tomkins Elkins and Sam Milton were also present.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm.

\*Amended March minutes were accepted.

We all introduced ourselves for the benefit of the first time attendees.

Mass. Ave. Corridor Redesign Project. Scott reviewed the open house held to introduce the 75% plan for redesign of the Mass. Ave. corridor. He told us that the directors of the DPW and Planning Department and the TAC were present to answer questions. This event was meant for small group discussions. There was no presentation from the Town. There were questions and complaints from both sides of the issue. Scott felt that there were a lot of useful suggestions about improvements in the design. Jack asked when construction is likely to begin. Scott answered that construction would probably begin in the spring of 2013. The major consequence for bikes in the latest design is that, due to the additional eastbound lane, there is now no room for bike lanes in some areas. In the current design, the bike lanes, on both sides of the street, will not start until east of Pond Lane intersection.

Arlington Center Crossing Redesign Project. Scott reported that more money has become available (about \$500K) for the renovations to the Mass. Ave./Pleasant St. intersection. There is some opposition from businesses to moving parking spaces from Mass. Ave. to Mystic St.

Recreational Trails Grant program. Joey recapped the topic for the visitors. She also told us that they got a few responses to the RFP this time around. Lexington is administering the grant and will be selecting the consultant. Joey reiterated that she will need volunteers to map points of interest near the path so that directional signs can be designed and installed. Pete told us that the Tourism Committee is also looking at installing signage indicating historic points of interest in the Town.

Planning the Spring Bikeway Cleanup. Stephan told us that notices have been sent out to many mailing lists distributed in Arlington. There is no rain date for the event so steady rain will cancel it. Volunteers to give out bags and organize the cleanup will be Chad Gibson in East Arlington, Stephan in Arlington Center and Christopher in Arlington Heights.

Planning the Bike Arlington Tour (May 20). We discussed starting the tour at the Jefferson-Cutter house again this year. Scott proposed starting at Jefferson-Cutter House, riding by the Thompson School construction site and then winding our way through East Arlington to the beginning of the Alewife path at Arizona Terrace. He thinks that it might be easier, at this point, to ride the first half of Alewife Path on the Somerville side of the brook and the second half on the new boardwalk on the Arlington side. The tour would be completed by riding up the Minuteman Bikeway back to Arlington Center. Some of us will meet on April 29 to check this route.

ABAC on the Web—status report. Doug told us that he thinks the web site is in pretty good shape. He questioned the purpose of the legislation section. He thinks that it would be useful for this section to be devoted to local bylaws impacting bicyclists in Arlington. We decided that he should provide links to Arlington bylaws and zoning bylaws. Todd thought a link to information about what to do if you are in an accident should be included. Ron said that he was distracted by the layout and would like to see one picture on the home page or better separation between the existing pictures. Joey would like to see the terms of the committee members listed and when those terms will end. Doug assured us that this site will be updated regularly.

Bike Safety Awareness Week. Joey told us that the electronic sign board notices will start next week. There have been a number of safety related phrases submitted that will be displayed.

Report on Bike Summit. Jack told us that the Summit in Washington D.C. took place during the congressional debate on the transportation bill. During the Summit, the Senate passed a fairly good transportation bill but the House has yet to act on it. Ray LaHood, the Secretary of Transportation, was the keynote speaker at the event. Jack felt that the Summit got good national and local press. He was disappointed that Congress could not get it together enough to pass a good bill. There has not been a new transportation appropriation bill passed in three years.

Jack also told us about the fund-raising ride, run by Tim Johnson, which also got a lot of press. This week the LAB awarded the Mass Dept of Transportation a bicycle friendly designation. He thought that this was illustrative of the changes taking place at many levels of government. Christopher asked if Tim Johnson might be a good speaker for next year's Winter Social. Jack will look into this possibility.

Adult tricycles on sidewalks. Joey sent us some correspondence about this issue before this meeting. There is a handicapped woman in town who would like to ride her tricycle on the sidewalk. Joey told us that the Town Counsel is helping her write a warrant article legalizing the use of tricycles by handicapped persons on town sidewalks. Scott added that he has been in communication with this woman and encouraged her to get in contact with The Disability Commission and ABAC. He told us that the primary authority for this issue is the Disabilities Commission. Scott reminded us that we have close to a year to help craft this bylaw and we will have to do it carefully. He suggested that it might be appropriate to have the bylaw originate from the Disability Commission and include endorsements by ABAC and TAC.

Legal Handbook—requirements and responsibilities of ABAC board members. Joey reminded us of our responsibility regarding the open meeting laws and taking the state ethics test on-line. We are requested to submit a signed and dated confirmation of completion to Joey ASAP.

Master Plan Public Forum (October 17). Joey told us that this forum will be held on the same day as the Oct. ABAC meeting. She proposed that our October meeting be changed to Oct. 24 so that we may all attend both events.

\*We voted to change the October meeting from October 17<sup>th</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup>.

Other. TAC is trying to get some rush hour bike path counts at Lake street and needs some volunteers. The hours will be 4:30 to 6:30 on April 25 and May 16. Todd, Stephan, and Pete volunteered to help out.

Ron is concerned about the lack of a center line on the bike path. We have heard that the DPW Director does not see it as a priority. We all disagree. Scott will see the Director tomorrow and ask him about repainting it.

Ron suggested that we spray paint the root heaves on the path so that the DPW can more easily find and repair them.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 pm.

\*Notes that a vote of the board was taken.

Minutes submitted by Stephan Miller